

Epilepsy preceded in	1 case
Myelitis preceded in	1 "
Paranoia preceded in	1 "
Senile insanity preceded in	1 "
Railroad injury preceded in	1 "
Menopause preceded in	3 cases
	<hr/>
	16 cases
No depressing etiological factor in	18 "
	<hr/>
	34 cases.

It is observable that the special differences produced by these depressing factors are that, in cases involving locomotor ataxia, depression always existed at the outset; those preceded by lues were as frequently optimistic as otherwise. These figures, therefore, tend to support the views advanced as to the frequency of depression at the outset of parietic dementia.

J. G. KIERNAN, M.D.

c.—THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

THE ELECTRICAL REACTION OF THE OPTIC NERVES.—Dr. Davies in a communication to the Ophthalmological Society gives the results of his observations. He states that in all diseases in which temporary paleness of the optic disk occurs, the electrical excitability of the optic nerve remains normal. On the other hand, true atrophy of the nerve is shown by a diminution of the excitability, which thus enables us to detect the nature of the condition, where the ophthalmoscope and other methods fail.

To examine the electrical reaction he places the large positive electrode over the root of the nose, the small negative electrode over the upper and outer part of the eyeball in such a way that it rests on the orbital bone, and only lightly touches the eyeball. He then, commencing with a weak current, gradually increases the strength till a decided sensation of light is experienced. The number of cells and the deflection of the needle are then noted. The strength of the current is then diminished till the sensation of light ceases. This last is taken as the measure of excitability. In normal individuals $\frac{1}{10}$ milli-ampère with one or two elements is sufficient to cause the sensation of light. The same is true of congenital, hysterical and alcoholic amblyopia. On the other hand, in true atrophy it requires 3-8 elements and an electrical current of 3-100 milli-ampères.—*Deut. med. Zeitung*, 1884, No. 61.

HYSTERO-EPILEPSY CURED BY DIVISION OF THE CERVIX UTERI.—Flehsig, reports a case of hystero-epilepsy, in an eighteen-year-old girl, associated with dysmenorrhœa. Since the first appearance of the catamenia the patient had suffered from

hystero-epileptic attacks which came on in great numbers just before and during menstruation. In the intervals they were less frequent. She suffered also at these times from severe pain in the loins, vomiting, retention of urine. General weakness, loss of appetite, constipation, restless sleep, and an anxious state of mind were also complained of.

She consulted a gynecologist, who made out a stenosis of the external os, and dilated it. The dysmenorrhœa was relieved, but the convulsions continued, and even increased in frequency, so that on account of them she entered the hospital. On admission she suffered from symptoms of mental depression, shooting pains in the head, pricking feelings in the hands. There was a high degree of contraction of the external os uteri. She had one or more convulsive attacks nearly every day, and masturbated.

The cervix was divided (Nov. 17), and several wedge-shaped pieces of cervix were removed. She had three more attacks only—the last on Dec. 10th, when normal menstruation came on. From Nov. 19th she suffered from dizziness, pain in the region of the bladder, besides her former symptoms described above. These ceased about Jan. 8th, when also some mental symptoms (delusions, suicidal ideas, etc.), which had come on Dec. 24th, also ceased. The patient was discharged well Jan. 23d, and up to the following September had remained so.

THE SPINAL CORD IN HEALTH AND DISEASE AT THE REGION OF THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DORSAL VERTEBRÆ (*Lancet*, July 12 and Dec. 6, 1884).—Dr. Alexander Harkin, in two rather remarkable papers in the *Lancet*, has called attention to a spinal phenomenon, which, if his observations shall be corroborated, may prove to be of considerable practical value. Dr. H. claims to have found invariably “in every case of hysteria, chorea, neuralgia, facial paralysis, and other neuroses in females, the coëxistence of pronounced spinal tenderness on pressure over the fourth or fifth, more frequently the fourth and fifth, dorsal vertebræ; with this practical result, the almost invariable and rapid cure of those maladies by remedies applied over those vertebræ alone.” At first he thought this tenderness a peculiarity of the female, but afterward found it also occurred in males. And still further observation showed that it “was in reality the normal condition of every healthy individual as well as of every age and class.” Of 131 female children and girls from six to sixteen years of age, inmates of the industrial schools, every one complained of acute pain when tapped with the knuckles over the above-mentioned region, no pain being mentioned when the remaining twenty-two spinous processes were similarly rapped. Nearly similar results were obtained with 35 women in the penitentiary, 31 boys in the Malone Reformatory, and 300 men, members of the Royal Irish Constabulary. Some compare the pain to an electric shock diffused over the chest and arms, and others to the tingling sensation